

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of connecting a plurality of hubs and a plurality of terminals with lines, each of the terminals comprising a plurality of ports each of which is connected to one of the lines, comprising the steps of:

connecting one of the ports and one of the hubs with one of the line at each of the terminals;

connecting another port of the same terminal with another port of the hubs at each of the terminals;

activating one of the lines connected with each of the terminals;

circularly connecting the hubs with each other; and

inactivating one of lines between adjoining two hubs.

2. The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of: detecting a fault on the port connected with the line that was activated at the activating step;

inactivating the port; and

activating another one of the ports of the same terminal.

3. The method claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of informing the other terminals that the terminal one of whose ports is detected the fault inactivates the port connected with the line that was activated at the activating step and activates another one of the ports of the same terminal.

4. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the hubs are stackable hubs.

5. The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

partitioning the hubs into a plurality of groups each of which includes at least one of the hubs; and

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supplying power to each of the groups from different power source.

6. The method claimed in claim 5, wherein the hub which is connected at the former connecting step and the hub which is connected at the later connecting step belong to different one of the groups from each other.

7. A network comprising a plurality of hubs and a plurality of terminals, wherein:

each of the terminals comprises a plurality of ports each of which is connected to different one of the hubs via a line;
one of the lines connected to one of the terminals is active and the rest of the lines connected to the same terminal is inactive;
the hubs are circularly connected with each other; and
one of lines between adjoining two of the hubs is inactive.

8. The network claimed in claim 7, each of the terminals comprising:

means for detecting a fault on the port connected to the active line;

means for inactivating the active line; and

means for activating one of the inactive lines.

9. The network claimed in claim 8, each of the terminals further comprising means for informing the other terminals of inactivating the active line and activating one of the inactive lines.

10. The network claimed in claim 6, wherein the hubs are stackable hubs, and the top hub is connected with the bottom hub to circularly connect the hubs with each other.

11. The network claimed in claim 6, wherein:

the hubs are partitioned into a plurality of groups each of which includes at least one of the hubs; and

each of the groups is supplied power from different power sources.

12. The network claimed in claim 11, wherein at each of the terminals, at least one of the ports is connected to the hub that is partitioned into different group from the rest of the ports

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